

Junior Duck Stamp Program

Fact Sheet

What's It All About?

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic educational program designed to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. This program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts activity. This non-traditional pairing of subjects brings new interest to both the sciences and the arts. It crosses cultural, ethnic, social, and geographic boundaries to promote greater awareness of our nation's natural resources. This benefits not only ducks, but all migratory birds, including neotropical migratory songbirds and hundreds of other plants and animals that depend on wetland habitat for their survival. It also benefits our nation's youth, giving them a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Participation in the Junior Duck Stamp Program is largely dependent on the dedicated teachers and parents who incorporate the program into various learning environments, and on the more than 30,000 students who participate each year.

The Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

After learning about wetlands and waterfowl conservation, students are encouraged to create drawings and paintings to submit to their state Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. Each year thousands of students enter state Junior Duck Stamp contests; thousands more participate in the program but do not submit an entry. One Best of Show entry from each state is entered into the national contest each year.

At the national level, students with the top three art entries and the top three conservation messages receive cash awards. Additionally, the first place national art award winner, his or her art teacher and a parent are invited to participate in the First Day of Sale

Ceremony for the Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp, in Washington, D.C.

The Junior Duck Stamp contest offers positive reinforcement for all participants: each receives a certificate of appreciation, and 100 students in each state, the District, and the U.S. territories are awarded prizes at the state level. Prizes vary among states and are dependent on donations and support the state program receives from sponsors.

Participate Now!

Students, teachers or parents interested in participating in the Junior Duck Stamp Program should contact their state coordinator to request an official contest brochure. Contest brochures are published by September each year. Students must submit art entries to the state coordinator no later than March 15th (January 30th in South Carolina and March 1st in Ohio). For more information, visit the Junior Duck Stamp Program Website, <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>.

Making the Stamp

Each year the winning entry from the national contest is made into the Junior Duck Stamp, which is sold for \$5 by the U.S. Postal Service and the Amplex Corporation. Proceeds generated from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps are used to pay for awards for contest participants, provide teachers with resources and market the program. In past years, sales of Junior Duck Stamps have raised nearly \$200,000 for these purposes.



2006 - 2007 Junior Duck Stamp

History of the Junior Duck Stamp Program

Like many successful programs, the Junior Duck Stamp started small. In 1989, thanks to a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Dr. Joan Allemand, a judge for the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, developed a conservation and arts curriculum and named it the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. It was used by 3,000 students in California schools. At the same time, Jaye Boswell, an elementary school teacher in Sanibel, Florida, decided to use the arts as a way to involve her class in conservation activities at nearby J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. In 1990, Boswell adopted Allemand's curriculum.

More states continued to use the Junior Duck Stamp Program and in 1994 Congress passed the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act authorizing the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sponsor the program and produce the Junior Duck Stamp. In 2001, the U.S. Postal Service began selling Junior Duck Stamps in its USA Philatelic Catalog, greatly increasing stamp sales and generating more revenue for

environmental education activities and program materials.

On January 10, 2006, the President signed the reauthorization of the Junior Duck Stamp Act, authorizing the program for an additional five years. More than 32,000 students entered a state, district or territory Junior Duck Stamp Contest in 2006.

The Junior Duck Stamp program is administered by dedicated state and regional coordinators, most of whom are employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state natural resource agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations. The Service's Federal Duck Stamp Office provides national support for the program.

Buy Junior Duck Stamps

To purchase a Junior Duck Stamp and support environmental education, please contact:

United States Postal Service
www.usps.com
1-800-782-6724 or 1-800-STAMP24

Amplex Corporation
www.duckstamp.com
1-800-852-4897

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Junior Duck Stamp Program
(703) 358-2000
<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>**

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**Conservation
Through the Arts**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE